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SOVIET BARS TRIP HERE BY WRITERS

Reversal on P.E.N. Congress
Linked to Authors' Trial

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MOSCOW, June 9—The Soviet Union withdrew today from participation in the world congress of P.E.N., a writers' organization, apparently to avoid being challenged about the conviction of the two writers, Andrei D. Sinyavsky and Yuli M. Daniel.

The congress opens Saturday, and the last-minute cancellation seemed to be an acknowledgment that Soviet attempts to gain recognition by the international writers' forum have been thwarted by the Sinyavsky-Daniel case.

P.E.N.—the initials stand for poets, playwrights, editors, essayists and novelists—has been among the most outspoken of the literary organizations that have protested the two authors' trial and sentences to hard labor in February. Both men were convicted under the Russian criminal code for having smuggled abroad works judged to be anti-Soviet.

Clemency Appeal Failed

A senior official of the P.E.N. organization failed in an attempt to win clemency for the two writers when he visited Moscow in April. "We cannot possibly offer P.E.N. membership to the Soviet Union during the New York congress as we had hoped," the official, David Carver, said at that time.

Despite that rebuff, the Soviet Union accepted the organization's invitation to send observers to the congress. Only five days ago a delegation of six writers was named.

No official reason was given for the sudden reversal and cancellation, which was announced by Tass, the Soviet press agency. Responsible officials were not

available to comment on the decision.

P.E.N. has a total international membership of 8,000 writers organized in 78 chapters in 56 countries, including all the Communist countries of Eastern Europe except the Soviet Union and Albania.

The opening of a Soviet chapter would have been a significant step toward strengthening the ties of Soviet writers with their colleagues abroad.

Speech Freedom Stressed

Absolute freedom of speech is a basic tenet of the organization's charter, however, and its protest made clear the view that the Sinyavsky-Daniel case violated that principle.

United States Embassy officials said that visas had been granted to all six delegates to visit New York for the meeting.

The Soviet delegation included literary figures known more for their organizational work in the Union of Writers than for their writing. None was considered representative of the liberal camp in Soviet literature, which seemed to indicate that the Soviet authorities were planning an official defense of the action against the two writers.

That is the practice they have followed in recent encounters with foreign intellectuals who have criticized the judgment. More liberal Soviet writers have privately expressed their own resentment against the official verdict.

Americans Not Apprised

Lewis Galentiere, president of the American P.E.N. Center, said last night that he had not received word from the Soviet Union that its delegation of writers would not attend the congress.

Mr. Galentiere and other Americans in the organization were unwilling to comment on the Moscow report or to speculate why the Soviet writers' trip was canceled.

At the beginning of this

month Mr. Galentiere received a cablegram from Moscow notifying him that six men would attend as observers from the Soviet Union. The six were listed as Georgi Breitburd, Vladimir G. Maelavariani, Boris Ryurikov, Kaysin Kuliyev, Sergei Orlov and Johannes Semper. Communist-bloc delegations among those scheduled to attend are from Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Rumania, Bulgaria and East Germany.